

**PARKS & RECREATION MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2002**  
**6:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order:** The Parks & Recreation Board met on the above date and time in the Council Chambers, 270 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Rushville. President Jack Harmon called the meeting to order. Members present were George Coons, Charlie Brown, Wilma Jo Kile, Tim Shuppert and Tracey Phillips. Also present was Parks Director Danny Mathews, Jan Voiles, *Rushville Republican*, Gina Clark, Pool Manager and Mayor Bob Bridges.

**Minutes:** Minutes of March 12, 2002 was presented for approval. Coons moved to approve the minutes for the month. Brown seconded. Motion carried.

**Reports:** Mathews introduced Gina Clark as the new Pool Manager. The Board of Works hired her last week. She has a lot of good ideas and will be good for the pool. She will be attending a CPI course on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mathews stated he is thrilled to have her on board and that her and Debbie are starting tomorrow evening. Harmon welcomed Clark aboard and stated we are looking forward to her assistance. Clark thanked Mathews for hiring her. Mathews stated she had a lot of work ahead of her getting her pool staff hired. Mathews also stated that Alspaugh did a wonderful job for us and is sure Clark will too.

Mathews stated that at next weeks Board of Works meeting he will turn in a couple of names to hire for the parks for the summer. He would like to re-hire Chris Philpot and Brian Knight. He is in hopes of getting them started the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April.

Mathews stated he rented the shelter house out last Sunday. He did get a refrigerator and has received lots of comments on how nice the kitchenette was.

Mathews stated that for programs this summer he will get a hold of Mark Hackler and Susan Myer's for the Entertainment in the Park. Kile stated both of those events were super successful last year.

Mathews also stated he is in the process of purchasing a new lawn mower for the parks.

Brown questioned Mathews concerning a wire that was down where the kids park. Mathews explained that was from a car show and there is no danger to anyone but that he will get that fixed.

Harmon again shared with Clark that she has the full support of this board and to let us know what if any concerns, ideas or issues she may have.

Harmon asked if there were any more concerns with the ball leagues. Mathews stated that the Girls Softball League did take the leaky water line out, they leveled the dirt and he ended up hauling away the bleachers. There are no other concerns at this time. Harmon stated he hopes they continue to communicate amongst themselves and thanked all for the comments at the last meeting.

**Claims:** Shuppert and Kile reviewed the claims prior to the meeting. Kile moved to approve the claims for the month. Shuppert seconded. Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business:**

Sharpe reported that the Skateboard Committee has raised \$4,437.51 to date. She also reported that the Rush County Community Foundation Grant was approved for \$4,000, she received a call from Christian Values today and they have another \$100.00 from the sale of the candles and the K. of C. Chicken Fry raised \$700.00 which would bring the grand total after all money is collected to be around \$9,237.51.

Kile stated these kids are to be commended.

Harmon thanked all for all the help with the Magic Show and the Chicken Fry.

He feels these kids are learning a lot in this money making process and that's what its all about.

Brown stated he thinks we need to decide on the location for the Skateboard Park. He stated he don't really think the kids care where it is at as long as they get a skatepark. Brown said he is suggesting Community Park and do away with the basketball court and the tennis courts and put the skateboard park there. He feels not many kids play basketball there like they do in Memorial Park.

Phillips said he drives that way everyday and there are not many that use that basketball court. He feels you have to give up something to get something.

Kile stated she feels by putting this park in Community Park that maybe it will decrease vandalism there.

**Unfinished Business Continued:**

Brown stated that he has made it very clear to these kids that there will be rules of this park and the rules will be enforced. These kids have worked very hard on this project to mess it up now.

Brown stated that the tennis courts are not that bad of shape.

Kile suggested resurfacing later down the road if this park is used a lot.

Mathews stated he still has some old softball lights that can be put up for more lighting.

Mathews stated the last quote he received for the fencing is right around \$7,000.

After further discussion, Kile moved to designate Community Park as the official location for the Skateboard Park using the old tennis courts and basketball courts. Brown seconded. Motion carried.

Brown stated he is also getting quotes on lumber.

Kile stressed that we need to build things for beginners too. She has been told that there is a need for smaller kids too.

Brown stated that these kids have raised \$10,000 and is hoping the Parks Board will kick in another \$10,000.

Harmon stated he feels we need to make a general plan first and get the figures.

Kile suggested the Parks Dept. paying for the fencing. She feels these kids worked hard and we should kick in.

Kile moved that the \$10,000 these kids have raised be used for the equipment to go in the park and that we (the Parks Dept.) pay for the rest. Motion died for a lack of second.

Harmon stated he feels we should see what their concept of this skateboard park is first, look at our budget and see what all dollars are involved.

Kile withdrew her motion and stated she is just wanting a park for these kids to be proud of.

Kile then moved to build the fence and patch the area first.

Brown will work on getting the design put together.

Coons stated that he feels its fair to say if these kids have raised \$10,000 that we will do the other \$10,000.

Harmon stated we need to let these kids know we are in full support of this project and we all need to work together.

Bridges questioned Brown as to what materials will be used.

Brown stated that he would like to use skatelite as a coating but not sure, will have to check the funds.

Coons said that we get them this area and get them started anything is better than someone's parking lot.

Further discussion on materials was discussed.

Bridges suggested using marine grade if skatelight is not used.

Brown stated he would try to shop locally if at all possible.

Kile then moved to build the fence around both the tennis courts and basketball courts not to exceed \$8,000 and patch so skateboard park can be completed. Shuppert seconded. Motion carried.

Harmon questioned the board as to Duane Alexander's request concerning naming the Skateboard Park.

Sharpe informed the board that he was willing to match the money the board had at the time, which was \$3,168.00 if this board named the Skateboard Park after his deceased son and grandson. He would also set up a fund to maintain the park and he would pay for the sign naming the park.

Newhouse asked what if someone else comes forward and wanted to give more money would this board be willing to name the park after them?

Coons stated that the Alexander's are not present at the meeting but that we should thank them for their offer but don't feel we should accept this at this time.

Harmon asked what the Skateboard Park Committee thought of this offer.

Sharpe informed them that those kids like the money part of it.

Brown stated that he don't think we should name the park after someone.

Shuppert asked what it would cost to maintain the park. After further discussion and doing some cost figures it was decided that this could cost more than \$1,000 a year.

Phillips stated he feels naming this park puts us in an awkward position.

Brown stated he would bring this up to the Skateboard Park committee.

Phillips stated we need figures.

Shuppert suggested the Alexander's set up a fund through the Rush County Community Foundation in memory of their loved ones and that fund could maintain the park.

The board felt this was a great idea.

Harmon will work on this and get a letter to the Alexander's as to the board's decision.

Sharpe informed the board that the Skateboard Park Committee meeting is tomorrow night at 6:30 at City Hall and invited all to come.

Harmon asked Sharpe to express the Parks Board appreciation for all that they have done.

There being no further business, Phillips moved to adjourn. Brown seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

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JACK HARMON, PRESIDENT

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GEORGE COONS, VICE PRESIDENT

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TIM SHUPPERT, MEMBER

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WILMA JO KILE, MEMBER

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TRACEY PHILLIPS, MEMBER

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CHARLES BROWN, MEMBER

ATTEST:

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CARLA SHARPE, SECRETARY